IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-49. (canceled)

50. (previously presented) An implantable medical device, comprising:

an implantable medical device housing that includes a housing wall of biocompatible material defining an interior volume;

a battery including an electrode assembly housed in a battery case and capable of producing a temperature greater than a temperature T1, the battery mounted within the interior volume; and

heat absorbing material exhibiting a phase change at the temperature T1 and positioned external to the electrode assembly for reducing the amplitude of a temperature excursion of the implantable medical device housing to prevent significant damage to body tissue.

51. (previously presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the heat absorbing material is positioned within the battery case.

52. (previously presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the heat absorbing material is positioned between the battery case and the device housing.

53. (previously presented) The device of claim 52, wherein the battery case has a case wall outer surface, and wherein the heat absorbing material contacts the case wall outer surface.

54. (previously presented) The device of claim 52, further comprising:

an outer casing mounted within the interior volume; wherein

the battery is mounted within the outer casing; and

the heat absorbing material is contained between the battery case and the outer casing.

55. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, further comprising:
at least a second battery mounted within the outer casing.

56. (previously presented) The device of claim 54, wherein the outer casing is formed of a polymer.

57. (previously presented) The device of claim 52, further comprising:
a caddy containing the heat absorbing material and attached to the battery case.

58. (previously presented) The device of claim 50, further comprising:
a fibrous containment mat embedded in the heat absorbing material.

59. (previously presented) The device of claim 58, wherein the fibrous containment mat includes dielectric fibers.

60. (previously presented) The device of claim 58, wherein the fibrous containment mat includes Kevlar.

61. (previously presented) The device of claim 58, wherein the fibrous containment mat includes fiberglass.

62. (previously presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the heat absorbing material includes paraffin.

63. (previously presented) The device of claim 50, and further including dielectric spacers separating the battery case from the device housing.

64. (previously presented) The device of claim 50, wherein the battery is a rechargeable battery.

65. (previously presented) A device, comprising:

a housing that includes a wall defining an interior housing volume;

a battery including an electrode assembly housed in a battery case and capable of producing a temperature greater than a temperature T1, the battery mounted within the interior volume with the battery case spaced from the housing; and

a heat absorber mounted adjacent to and thermally coupled to the battery case, the heat absorber including a heat absorbing material exhibiting a phase change at the temperature T1.

66. (previously presented) The device of claim 65, and further including dielectric spacers separating the battery case from the housing.

67. (previously presented) The device of claim 65, wherein the heat absorbing material is positioned within the battery case.

68. (previously presented) The device of claim 65, wherein the heat absorbing material is positioned between the battery case and the housing.

69. (previously presented) The device of claim 65, wherein the battery case has a case wall outer surface, and wherein the heat absorbing material contacts the case wall outer surface.

70. (previously presented) The device of claim 65, further comprising:

an outer casing mounted within the interior volume; wherein

the battery is mounted within the outer casing; and

the heat absorbing material is contained between the battery case and the outer casing.

71. (previously presented) The device of claim 70, further comprising:

at least a second battery mounted within the outer casing.

72. (previously presented) The device of claim 70, wherein the outer casing is formed of a polymer.

73. (previously presented) The device of claim 65, wherein the heat absorber includes a caddy containing the heat absorbing material and attached to the battery case.

74. (previously presented) The device of claim 65, wherein the heat absorber includes a fibrous containment mat embedded in the heat absorbing material.

75. (previously presented) The device of claim 74, wherein the fibrous containment mat includes dielectric fibers.

76. (previously presented) The device of claim 74, wherein the fibrous containment mat includes Kevlar.

77. (previously presented) The device of claim 74, wherein the fibrous containment mat includes fiberglass.

78. (previously presented) The device of claim 65, wherein the heat absorbing material includes paraffin.

79. (previously presented) The device of claim 65, wherein the heat absorbing material includes polyethylene.

80. (previously presented) The device of claim 65, wherein the heat absorbing material includes polypropylene.

81. (previously presented) The device of claim 65, wherein the battery is a rechargeable battery.

82. (previously presented) A method for containing heat generated by a battery having a

battery case within a housing, comprising:

spacing the battery case from the housing;

providing high heat capacity material in thermal contact with the battery case and spaced from the housing; and

transferring the heat generated from the battery to the high heat capacity material in the form of latent heat of fusion of the high heat capacity material.

83. (previously presented) The method of claim 82, further comprising:

forming an electrode assembly; and then

mounting the high heat capacity material around the electrode assembly within the battery case and thermally coupled to the electrode assembly.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 82, further comprising configuring the high heat capacity material to engage the outer surface of the battery case.

85. (previously presented) The method of claim 82, further comprising:

accommodating the high heat capacity material within a caddy; and

mounting the caddy to the outer surface of the battery case.

86. (previously presented) The method of claim 82, further comprising depositing the high heat capacity material on a fibrous mat.